(b) by when, laying of Optical Fibre Cable would be completed in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) laid in the State of Tamil Nadu is 43048 Kilometres (Kms) as on 30.6.2004. For the year 2004-05, Optical Fibre Cable proposed to be laid in the State of Tamil Nadu is 1900 Kms and out of which 221 Kms Optical Fibre Cable has already been laid.

(b) OFC laying work is continuous in nature and depends on demand and forecast of the services. The proposed plan of laying 1900 Kms will be achieved by the end of March, 2005.

Software Technology Parks of India in Tamil Nadu

918. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a Software Technology Park of India at Hosur, in Tamil Nadu considering vast scope for setting up of a park there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration. The decision to set up a centre of the Software Technology Parks of India is taken in partnership with the State Government concerned, having regard to the Centre's projected viability and the growth potential of software and services exports in that area. No proposal for setting up a Software Technology Park at Hosur has been received from the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Commemorative Postal Stamp on Kuvempu and Keladi Chennamma

919. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister **of** COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring out stamps on Kuvempu and Keladi Chennamma who fought against foreign rule in Karnataka; and

(b) if not, whether Government would consider bringing out stamps on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There is no proposal to bring out postal stamps on Kuvempu and Keladi Chennamma.

(b) The Department of Posts has already released commemorative postage stamp on Dr. Kuppali Venkatappa Puttappa popularly known as Kuvempu on 28.3.1997 No proposal on Keladi Chennamma has been received so far for examination by the Philatelic Advisory Committee.

I.T.I., Bangalore

920. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore, has made any profit or incurred loss during the years 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many employees have been given VRS so far;

(d) whether there is any proposal to close down the above unit; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to revive the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD):

(a) ITI has incurred losses during 2002-03 and 2003-04.

(b)	Year	Loss
	2002-03	Rs. 375 crore
	2003-04	Rs. 696 crore (Provisional)

(c) 12503 employees since 1991-92 to 2003-04.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Steps taken:—

(i) Government has provided guarantee to raise money to give VRS to its employees, (ii) Reservation quota orders up to 30% has been given, (iii) Advance payment of 75% of the purchase order value against the reserved quota orders.